

based hate crimes. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their area and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated. It is my understanding that Chairman SENSENBRENNER will accept this amendment, and I thank him as well.

We must be diligent in our efforts to protect children from those individuals who would steal their innocence, or worse, take their lives. I am hopeful that this legislation will enhance the efforts already in place so that parents and communities can take the necessary steps to ensure that their children will be safe.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
ROBERT L. LEWIS, FOUNDER OF  
CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Robert L. Lewis, beloved husband, father, friend and United States Veteran. Mr. Lewis leaves behind a brilliant legacy that reflects his personal passions and professional accomplishments as admired attorney, educator, author and long-time activist on behalf of the performing arts and educational opportunity for all.

Mr. Lewis was born and raised in New York. As a young boy, he performed song, dance and comedy routines with his family on the vaudeville circuit. His formal education in public school did not begin until age 12. Extremely bright, Mr. Lewis quickly ascended through the grade levels. He graduated from high school at age 15 and enrolled in college at age 16. Following his service in the army in Europe during World War II, Mr. Lewis studied law at Western Reserve University in Cleveland and graduated in 1948 with a law degree.

Mr. Lewis joined the law firm of Ulmer, Berne, Laronge, Glickman and Curtis and retired in 1996 after 46 years of outstanding work with the firm. He worked as a professor at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations, and also taught corporate and contract law courses at what was then Cleveland Marshall Law School.

Throughout his adult life, Mr. Lewis maintained an unwavering focus on raising the lives of others into the light of possibility and achievement. He volunteered his time as past president of the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities; board member with PACE (Program for Action by Citizens in Education), and served on the board of the Fairmount Center for the Creative and Performing Arts.

His passion and belief that higher education should be affordable for everyone manifested itself in 1963 with the establishment of Cuyahoga Community College (CCC), an institution that continues to be a significant source of educational and career opportunities for thousands of students each year. Mr. Lewis served on the CCC Board of Trustees for 18 years and Chairman of the Board for 4 years. He also served as CCC's "resident scholar," and

taught courses in Greek mythology and drama.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, remembrance and gratitude to Mr. Robert L. Lewis, whose life was defined by his steadfast commitment to his family, his significant contribution to our community and his boundless energy in promoting the performing arts and securing educational opportunities for everyone. I offer my condolences to his wife of 42 years, Joanne; his daughters, Pavia and Clea; his sons, Paul, David and Brian; his nine grandchildren and his extended family members and many friends.

The kindness, vision, energy and personal and professional excellence that flowed from the gracious life of Mr. Lewis will continue to serve as a fountain of learning and strength for the students and educators at Cuyahoga Community College, and his legacy will continue to raise our entire community into the light of hope, possibility and opportunity for all.

RETIREMENT OF VICTOR A.  
MODEER

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Vic Modeer upon his retirement from the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT. For the past 20 years, Vic Modeer has served with utmost distinction at the IDOT.

After graduating from the Louisiana State University and receiving a masters in civil engineering from Purdue University, Vic worked in the private sector for a contractor and consultants prior to his employment at IDOT. Once at IDOT, he worked his way up from various positions within the Division of Highways to eventually become the director of Highways and chief engineer. IDOT's Division of Highways is a vast organization with over 5,000 employees, a \$490 million operating budget, and a \$4.5 billion construction budget.

While serving as the district engineer and as director of Highways, Vic was instrumental in overseeing many important highway projects in my congressional district and across the entire State of Illinois. As director of Highways, he helped lead IDOT to be the first State department of transportation in the Nation to meet and become certified under the process and quality management standards of the International Organization of Standardization, ISO 9001:2000. This is indicative of the dedication Vic and his staff have shown for professionalism, product quality, public accountability, and customer satisfaction.

Vic met the challenges of budget constraints and significant staff reductions during his tenure as director with a typical can-do attitude. He reorganized the division, improved communications, engineered process efficiencies to make up for lost work force, and employed innovative management and training methods to maintain productivity and continue delivering the highway program as promised, with no reduction in service, despite the loss of nearly 20 percent of his staff to early retirement and other attrition between 2002 and 2005.

Mr. Modeer's participation in numerous professional organizations, including the AASHTO

Standing Committee on Highways and the Task Force with Transportation Security, his service as a Navy veteran from Desert Storm serving in Saudi Arabia with the Seabees as an officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps, his long list of publicized articles regarding geotechnical engineering as well as teaching numerous engineering classes at Louisiana State University and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville exemplify the strength of his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and gratitude for his long and successful career at the IDOT. Vic Modeer's meritorious service to Illinois and to our country will have a lasting legacy not only in steel and concrete, but his true legacy will be with the people who served with him and the lives he has helped and touched. I wish him well and hope he continues to achieve happiness, health and success in his future endeavors.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JOHN H.  
JOHNSON

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 15, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of John H. Johnson. Born in 1918 in Arkansas City, AR, Mr. Johnson passed away on August 8 at the age of 87. Mr. Johnson has set an example for us all by being both an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. I would like to recognize Mr. Johnson's lifetime of contributions to Arkansas and our Nation.

Mr. Johnson began his distinguished career in 1942 as editor and publisher of Negro Digest. Just 3 years later, he began publishing Ebony Magazine, one of the most influential African-American magazines in the world, with a \$500 loan. Mr. Johnson later became the founder, publisher, and chairman of Johnson Publishing Company, the world's largest African-American owned publishing company.

In 1982, Mr. Johnson was the first African-American to be named on the Forbes list of the 400 wealthiest Americans. Mr. Johnson's long list of awards and achievements include: the Black Journalists' Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987, the Wall Street Journal/Dow Jones Entrepreneurial Excellence Award in 1993, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996—the highest honor this Nation gives to a citizen, the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame Award in 2001, the Vanguard Award in 2002, and the Trumpet Award in 2002.

Arkansas City and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have worked together to create the John H. Johnson Cultural and Education Museum. On May 21 of this year, this museum was dedicated in Desha County, AR. The museum captures Mr. Johnson's life by restoring his boyhood home and includes period memorabilia, printed material, and video chronicles. I know it was a tremendous honor for Mr. Johnson to return to his home and see the great tribute dedicated in his honor.

I am deeply saddened by Mr. Johnson's death. His dedication, entrepreneurial spirit, and legacy will continue in Arkansas for the years and decades ahead. My heartfelt condolences go to his wife, Eunice, and their daughter, Linda Johnson Rice, and their granddaughter, Alexa Rice.